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⑤④ Multi-stage polymer particle having a hydrophobically-modified ionically soluble stage.

⑤⑦ Multi-stage polymer particles comprising at least one hydrophobically-modified, ionically-soluble polymer stage polymerized from a) hydrophobic monomer, b) ethylenically-unsaturated, ionizable monomer, c) non-ionic, ethylenically-unsaturated monomer and optionally d) multi-functional compound.

The multi-stage polymer particles may be useful in or as an ink, adhesive, coating, paint, pigment dispersant, textile thickeners, cosmetic formulation, oil well drilling fluid or liquid detergent or in water treatment.

EP 0 398 576 A2

MULTI-STAGE POLYMER PARTICLE HAVING A HYDROPHOBICALLY-MODIFIED IONICALLY-SOLUBLE STAGE

This invention concerns polymer particles which may find use as thickeners. The polymer particles may be useful in a variety of applications such as inks, adhesives, coatings, paints, pigment dispersants, textile thickeners, cosmetic formulations, oil well drilling fluids, liquid detergents and water treatment. The polymer particles of the present invention may exhibit surprising improvements in viscosity stability upon addition of 5 predispersed colorants and upon heat-aging, and improvements in early blister resistance, color float and syneresis resistance.

Many pH-responsive thickeners are known in the art and are used to thicken water-based compositions. These thickeners are generally based upon the incorporation of a hydrophobic surfactant monomer into a hydrophilic, polymeric backbone. The traditional backbone composition for these thickeners primarily 10 included monomeric acid, such as acrylic or methacrylic acid, and an alkyl acrylate or methacrylate, such as ethyl acrylate. The hydrophobic surfactant component is primarily derived from a polyethoxylated alkyl group. Several patents disclose pH-responsive thickeners and the various linkages connecting the hydrophobic surfactant component to the polymer backbone.

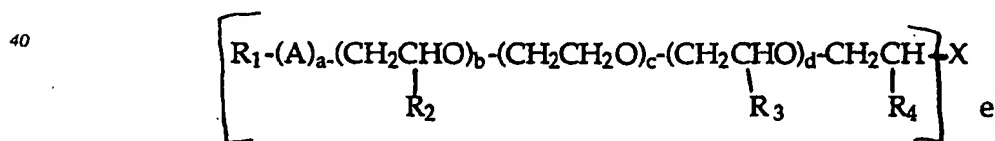
US-A-4,384,096 discloses liquid emulsion polymers useful as pH-responsive thickeners containing an acrylate or methacrylate linkage. US-A-4,569,965 discloses crotonate-containing polymeric thickeners. US-A-4,464,524 discloses polymer thickeners containing maleate linkages. US-A-4,663,385 discloses copolymers of alkyl poly(oxyalkylene) itaconic di-esters. US-A- 4,616,074 discloses acrylic-methylene succinic ester emulsion copolymers for thickening aqueous systems. US-A- 4338,239 discloses thickener copolymers having allyl glycidyl ether linkages. US-A-4,514,552 discloses soluble latex thickeners containing urethane linkages. US-A-4,600,761 discloses thickener copolymers containing isocyanato ethyl methacrylate linkages. EP-A-0216479 discloses polymeric thickeners containing allyl ether linkages.

The polymeric thickeners of the prior art have several disadvantages which adversely affect their performance in paint applications. The disadvantages of the prior art thickeners include loss of viscosity upon heat-aging and colorant addition, decreased scrub resistance, and blistering over chalky substrates. It is the object of the present invention to overcome one or more of the disadvantages of the prior art thickeners.

Mixtures or blends of alkali-soluble polymers with alkali-insoluble polymers are known in the art, such as described in US-A-3,037,952. Additionally, EP-A- 0207854 discloses a coating composition containing core-shell polymer particles containing (A) 95-99% by weight of at least one C₁-C₈ alkyl acrylate or methacrylate and (B) 1-5% by weight of at least one water soluble monomer. However, none of these references teach multi-stage polymer particles which are useful as thickeners comprising a hydrophobically-modified, ionically-soluble polymer stage.

In accordance with the present invention, we provide polymer particles each comprising two or more polymer stages wherein:

- 1) at least one of said polymer stages is an ionically-soluble polymer, said ionically-soluble polymer being polymerized from a monomer mixture comprising,
- a) about 0.1 to about 55% by weight hydrophobic monomer having the formula;



where A is -O- , -S- , -N- , -C(=O)-N- , -C(=O)-O- or -O-C(=O)-O- ;

⁵⁰ R₁ and R₅ independently are (C₁-C₃₀) alkyl, a (mono-, di-, or tri-) (C₁-C₃₀) alkyl-substituted phenyl ring, or a sorbitan fatty ester; R₂, R₃ and R₄ independently are - H or (C₁-C₁₀) alkyl, aryl, preferably (C₆-C₁₀) aryl, or alkylaryl, preferably (C₁-C₁₀) alkyl (C₆-C₁₀) aryl; a is 0 or 1; b is 0 to 50; c is 0 to 150; d is 0 to 50; e is equal to or greater than 1 and X is a group containing at least one ethylenic double bond;

- b) about 10 to about 60% by weight (C_3-C_{30}) ethylenically-unsaturated, ionizable monomer, and
- c) about 0.1 to about 90% by weight nonionic (C_2-C_{30}) ethylenically-unsaturated monomer, and
- d) 0 to about 10% by weight multi-functional compounds;

2) said ionically-soluble polymer is physically or chemically attached to said polymer particle such that, upon neutralizing said ionically-soluble polymer with base or acid, at least a portion of said ionically-soluble polymer remains attached to the remainder of said polymer particle; and

3) said ionically-soluble polymer comprises from about 1% to about 99% by weight of said polymer particle.

Preferably said ionically-soluble polymer stage comprises from about 50% to about 95%, more preferably about 70% to about 90%, most preferably about 80%, by weight of said polymer particle.

Said ionically-soluble polymer stage may be acid-soluble or base-soluble, but preferably is base-soluble. More preferably the polymer particles of this invention comprise at least one base-soluble polymer stage and at least one base-insoluble polymer stage, wherein the weight ratio of said base-soluble polymer to said base-insoluble polymer is about 99:1 to about 1:99; more preferably about 95:5 to about 50:50. (Similar ratios may apply for acid-soluble polymer: acid-insoluble polymer, polymer particles.)

Each of the polymer stages of the polymer particles of this invention is sequentially polymerized and, as used herein, the term "stage" refers to the polymer formed during each sequence of polymerization. Each stage is also defined as being different from the immediately preceding and/or immediately subsequent stage by a difference of at least 0.1% by weight in monomer composition. The polymer particles may be prepared by a variety of processes which are well known in the art, such as suspension, emulsion, dispersion, bulk or solution polymerization. Preferably the multi-stage polymer particles of this invention are prepared by emulsion polymerization (reference can be made to US-A-4,427,836 for preferred and specific process conditions). The polymer particles of the present invention are most preferably prepared by sequential emulsion polymerisation.

The polymer particle preferably comprises at least one polymer stage which is base-insoluble and at least one polymer stage which is base-soluble. "Base-insoluble" as used herein means that the polymer is substantially insoluble in aqueous medium which has been adjusted with base to a pH of about 5.0 or greater. The base-insoluble stage has a particle size of 0.1 to about 5000 nanometers.

The composition of the polymer stages, other than said ionically-soluble stage, is not critical and can be of any polymeric composition. Preferably, the polymer particles have at least one base-insoluble polymer stage which is polymerized from a monomer mixture comprising about 1% to about 100% by weight mono-ethylenically-unsaturated monomer and about 0% to about 99% by weight multi-functional compounds (more preferably from about 70 to 99.9% by weight monoethylenically-unsaturated monomers and 0.1% to 30% by weight multi-functional compounds). More preferably, said mono-ethylenically-unsaturated monomers are selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, decyl acrylate, hydroxyethyl acrylate, hydroxypropyl acrylate, hydroxybutyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, hydroxyethyl methacrylate, hydroxypropyl methacrylate, hydroxybutyl methacrylate, acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, crotonic acid, acrylic anhydride, methacrylic anhydride, maleic anhydride, itaconic anhydride, fumaric anhydride, styrene, substituted styrene, vinyl acetate, vinyl butyrate, vinyl caprolate, acrylamide, methacrylamide, butadiene, isoprene, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, ethylene, propylene and other C_1-C_{18} alkyl or hydroxyalkyl acrylates, methacrylates, fumarates, maleates or crotonates. The base-insoluble polymer stage can contain from about 0 to about 5% (based on weight of monomer) of chain transfer agents selected from the group consisting of alkyl-mercaptans such as dodecyl mercaptan, t-dodecyl mercaptan, octyl mercaptan, tetradecyl mercaptan, hexadecyl mercaptan and octadecyl mercaptan; hydroxyethyl mercaptan; mercaptopropionic acid; ethyl mercaptopropionate; methyl mercaptopropionate; butyl mercaptopropionate; thioglycolic acid; methyl thioglycolate; ethyl thioglycolate and butyl thioglycolate.

Multi-functional compounds as used herein means a) compounds having two or more sites of unsaturation; b) reactive chain transfer agents having two or more abstractable atoms; c) hybrid compounds having one or more sites of unsaturation and one or more abstractable atoms; d) amine-functional monomers that associate ionically with a base-soluble stage or; e) compounds having one or more sites of unsaturation and one or more nucleophilic or electrophilic reaction sites. Preferably the multi-functional compounds used to polymerize said base-insoluble polymer stage are selected from the group consisting of allyl-, methallyl-, vinyl-, and crotyl-esters of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic (mono- and di-esters), fumaric (mono- and di-esters), and itaconic (mono- and di-esters) acids; allyl-, methallyl-, and crotyl-vinyl ether and thioether; N- and N,N-di-allyl-methallyl-, crotyl- and vinyl-amides of acrylic and methacrylic acids; N-allyl-, methallyl-, and crotyl-maleimide; vinyl esters of 3-butenic and 4-pentenoic acids; diallyl benzene, diallyl phthalate; triallyl

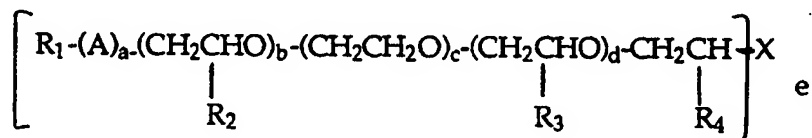
cyanurate; O-allyl-, methallyl-, crotyl-, O-alkyl-, aryl-, P-vinyl-, P-allyl-, P-crotyl-, and P-methallyl-phosphonates; triallyl-, trimethallyl-, and tricrotyl, phosphates; O-vinyl-, O,O-diallyl-, dimethallyl-, and dicrotyl-phosphates; cycloalkenyl esters of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic (mono- and di-esters), fumaric (mono- and di-esters), and itaconic (mono- and di-esters) acids [such as dicyclopentenyl- ethyl (meth) acrylate and dicyclopentenyl (meth) acrylate]; vinyl ethers and vinyl thioethers of cycloalkenols and cycloalkene
 5 thiols; vinyl esters of cycloalkene carboxylic acids; 1, 3-butadiene, isoprene and other conjugated dienes; para-methylstyrene; chloromethylstyrene; allyl-, methallyl-, vinyl-, and crotyl-mercaptan; bromotrichloromethane; bromoform; carbon tetrachloride; carbon tetrabromide; N,N'-methylene- bis-acrylamide; ethylene glycol diacrylate; diethylene glycol diacrylate; triethylene glycol diacrylate; tetraethylene glycol
 10 diacrylate; polyethylene glycol diacrylate; polypropylene glycol diacrylate; butanediol diacrylate; hexanediol diacrylate; pentaerythritol triacrylate; trimethylolpropane triacrylate; tripropylene glycol diacrylate; neopentyl glycol diacrylate; ethylene glycol dimethacrylate; diethylene glycol dimethacrylate; triethylene glycol dimethacrylate; polyethylene glycol dimethacrylate; polypropylene glycol dimethacrylate; butanediol dimethacrylate; hexanediol dimethacrylate; trimethylolpropane trimethacrylate; trimethylolpropane
 15 trimethacrylate; divinyl benzene; N,N-dimethylamino ethyl acrylate; N,N-dimethylamino ethyl methacrylate; N,N-diethylamino ethyl acrylate; N,N-diethylamino ethyl methacrylate; N-t-butylamino ethyl acrylate; N-t-butylamino ethyl methacrylate; N,N-dimethylamino propyl acrylamide; N,N-dimethylamino propyl methacrylamide; N,N-diethylamino propyl acrylamide; N,N-diethylamino propyl methacrylamide; p-aminostyrene, N, N-cyclohexylallylamine; 3-N,N-dimethylamino neopentyl acrylate; 3-N,N-dimethylamino
 20 neopentyl methacrylate; diallylamine; dimethallylamine; N-ethyl dimethallylamine; N-ethylmethallylamine; N-methyldiallylamine; 2-vinylpyridine; 4-vinyl- pyridine; glycidyl methacrylate; isocyanatoethyl methacrylate; alpha, alpha-dimethyl-m-isopropenyl benzyl isocyanate; chloroethyl acrylate; bromoethyl acrylate; iodoethyl acrylate; chloroethyl methacrylate; bromoethyl methacrylate and iodoethyl methacrylate.

It is critical to the practice of this invention that at least one of the polymer stages of the multi-stage
 25 polymer particle be an ionically-soluble polymer. Ionically-soluble means that the polymer is substantially soluble in water when ionized by pH adjustment or chemical reaction (such as quaternization). Ionically-soluble preferably means that the polymer is either acid-soluble or base-soluble as defined herein. The term "acid-soluble" as used herein means that the polymer is substantially soluble in an aqueous medium which has been adjusted with acid to a pH of about 9.0 or less. The term "base-soluble" as used herein means
 30 that the polymer is substantially soluble in an aqueous medium which has been adjusted with base to a pH of about 5.0 or greater. The term "ionically-insoluble" as used herein means that the polymer is not ionically-soluble as defined above.

The ionically-soluble polymer stage is polymerized from a monomer mixture comprising

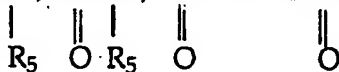
a) about 0.1 to about 55% by weight hydrophobic monomer having the formula;

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where A is -O-, -S-, -N-, -C-N-, -C-O- or -O-C-O-; R₁ and R₅



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independently are (C₁-C₃₀) alkyl, a (mono-, di-, or tri-) C₁-C₃₀ alkyl-substituted phenyl ring, or a sorbitan fatty ester; R₂, R₃ and R₄ independently are -H or (C₁-C₁₀) alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl; a is 0 or 1; b is 0 to 50; c
 50 is 0 to 150; d is 0 to 50; e is equal to or greater than 1 and X is a group containing at least one ethylenic double bond;

b) about 10 to about 60% by weight (C₃-C₃₀) ethylenically-unsaturated, ionizable monomer and;

c) about 0.1 to about 90% by weight nonionic (C₂-C₃₀) ethylenically-unsaturated monomer (i.e. containing no carboxylic acid functionality or other ionizable functionality), and

d) 0 to about 10% by weight multi-functional compounds.

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Preferably the monomer mixture for preparing the ionically (acid or base)-soluble polymer stage comprises about 2 to about 20% of said hydrophobic monomer. Preparation of hydrophobic monomer which may be used in this invention is described in many literature references, such as US-A- 4075411. In the above formula, X may be any group containing at least one ethylenic double bond, but preferably X is

selected from the group consisting of acrylates, methacrylates, crotonates, maleates (mono- and di-esters), fumarates (mono- and di-esters), itaconates (mono- and di-esters), ethylenically-unsaturated urethanes, allyl ethers, methallyl ethers and vinyl ethers.

As previously mentioned, the ionically-soluble polymer stage may be either an acid-soluble polymer or a base-soluble polymer. The acid-soluble polymer stage comprises from about 10 to about 60% by weight (C₂-C₃₀) ethylenically unsaturated, ionizable monomers such as N,N-dimethylamino ethyl acrylate; N,N-dimethylamino ethyl methacrylate; N,N-diethylamino ethyl acrylate; N,N-diethylamino ethyl methacrylate; N-t-butylamino ethyl acrylate; N-t-butylamino ethyl methacrylate; N,N-dimethylamino propyl acrylamide; N,N-dimethylamino propyl methacrylamide; N,N-diethylamino propyl acrylamide; N,N-diethylamino propyl methacrylamide; p-aminostyrene; N,N-cyclohexylallylamine; 3N,N-dimethylamino neopentyl acrylate; 3-N,N-dimethylamino neopentyl methacrylate; allylamine; diallylamine; dimethylallylamine; N-ethyl dimethylallylamine; N-ethylmethallylamine; 2-vinylpyridine; 4-vinylpyridine; vinyl imidazole; and crotyl amines.

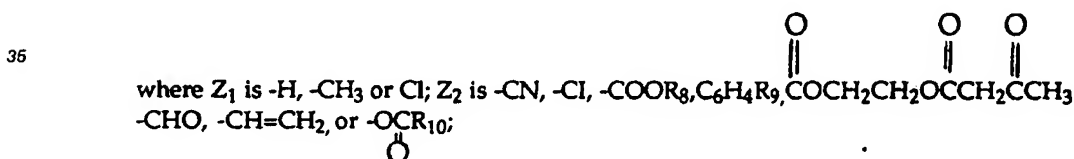
Preferably the ionically-soluble polymer stage is a base-soluble polymer wherein said (C₃-C₃₀) ethylenically-unsaturated, ionizable monomer is a carboxylic acid monomer.

The carboxylic acid monomer used in the polymerization of the base-soluble polymer stage preferably has the chemical formula:



where R₆ is -H, -CH₃ or COOY; R₇ is -H, (C₁-C₄) alkyl or -CH₂COOY; and Y is -H or (C₁-C₁₀) alkyl. Suitable carboxylic acid monomers include, for example, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, crotonic acid and the like. The most preferred carboxylic acid monomer is methacrylic acid.

The nonionic ethylenically unsaturated monomers useful in this invention are preferably those having the chemical formula;



R₈ is C₁-C₁₀ alkyl or C₂-C₈ hydroxyalkyl,

R₉ is -H, -Cl, -Br or C₁-C₁₀ alkyl; and R₁₀ is C₁-C₁₀ alkyl. Examples of suitable nonionic ethylenically-unsaturated monomer are ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, styrene, vinyl acetate, acrylonitrile, vinyl chloride and the like.

The preferred multi-functional compounds which are useful in polymerizing said ionically-soluble polymer are selected from the group consisting of allyl-, methallyl-, vinyl-, and crotyl-esters of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic (mono- and di-esters), fumaric (mono- and di-esters), and itaconic (mono- and di-esters) acids; allyl-, methallyl-, and crotyl-vinyl ether and thioether; N- and N,N-di-allyl, methallyl-, crotyl- and vinyl-amides of acrylic and methacrylic acids; N-allyl-, methallyl-, and crotyl-maleimide; vinyl esters of 3-butenic and 4-pentenoic acids; diallyl benzene, diallyl phthalate; triallyl cyanurate; O-allyl-, methallyl-, crotyl-, O-alkyl-, aryl-, P-vinyl-, P-allyl-, P-crotyl-, and P-methallyl-phosphonates; triallyl-, trimethallyl-, and tricrotyl-phosphates; O-vinyl-, O-, O-diallyl-, dimethallyl-, and dicrotyl-phosphates; cycloalkenyl esters of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic (mono- and di-esters), fumaric (mono- and di-esters), and itaconic (mono- and di-esters) acids; vinyl ethers and vinyl thioethers of cycloalkenols and cycloalkene thiols; vinyl esters of cycloalkene carboxylic acids; 1,3-butadiene, isoprene and other conjugated dienes; para-methylstyrene; chloromethylstyrene; allyl-, methallyl-, vinyl-, and crotyl-mercaptan; bromotrichloromethane; bromoform; carbon tetrachloride; carbon tetrabromide; N,N'-methylene-bis-acrylamide; ethylene glycol diacrylate; diethylene glycol diacrylate; triethylene glycol diacrylate; tetraethylene glycol diacrylate; polyethylene glycol diacrylate;

polypropylene glycol diacrylate; butanediol diacrylate; hexanediol diacrylate; pentaerythritol triacrylate; trimethylolpropane triacrylate; tripropylene glycol diacrylate; neopentyl glycol diacrylate ethylene glycol dimethacrylate; diethylene glycol dimethacrylate; triethylene glycol dimethacrylate; polyethylene glycol dimethacrylate; polypropylene glycol dimethacrylate; butanediol dimethacrylate; hexanediol dimethacrylate; 5 trimethylolpropane trimethacrylate; trimethylolpropane trimethacrylate; divinyl benzene; glycidyl methacrylate; isocyanatoethyl methacrylate; alpha, alpha-dimethyl-m- isopropenyl benzyl isocyanate; chloroethyl acrylate; bromoethyl acrylate; iodoethyl acrylate; chloroethyl methacrylate; bromoethyl methacrylate and iodoethyl methacrylate.

The monomer mixture used to polymerize the ionically-soluble polymer may contain 0 or up to about 10 5% (based on the weight of said monomer mixture) of chain transfer agents selected from the group consisting of alkyl-mercaptans, such as dodecyl mercaptan, t-dodecyl mercaptan, octyl mercaptan, octyl decyl mercaptan, tetradecyl mercaptan and hexadecyl mercaptan; hydroxyethyl mercaptan; mercap-topropionic acid; methyl mercaptopropionate; ethyl mercaptopropionate; butyl mercaptopropionate; methyl thioglycolate; thioglycolic acid; ethyl thioglycolate and butyl thioglycolate.

15 In preparing the multi-stage polymer particles of the present invention, the ionically-insoluble polymer stage can be polymerized and subsequently the ionically-soluble polymer stage is polymerized in the presence of the ionically-insoluble polymer stage. Alternatively, the ionically-soluble polymer stage can be polymerized and subsequently the ionically-insoluble polymer stage is polymerized in the presence of the ionically-soluble polymer stage (i.e. inverse polymerization); due to the hydrophobicity of the ionically- 20 insoluble polymer, it becomes one or more domains within the ionically-soluble polymer. A further technique for preparing the multi-stage polymer particles involves polymerization of the ionically-insoluble polymer stage, addition of multi-functional compounds which are allowed to soak into said ionically-insoluble polymer, polymerization of said multi-functional compounds, and subsequent polymerization of said ionically-soluble polymer stage. For example polymer particles comprising base-insoluble polymer and 25 base-soluble polymer may be prepared by emulsion polymerisation. Either said base-insoluble polymer stage is polymerized and subsequently said base-soluble polymer stage is polymerized in the presence of said base-insoluble polymer stage; or said base-soluble polymer stage is polymerized and subsequently said base-insoluble polymer stage is polymerized in the presence of said base-soluble polymer stage and, due to the hydrophobicity of said base-insoluble polymer, it becomes one or more domains within said 30 base-soluble polymer.

The ionically-soluble polymer is physically or chemically attached to the polymer particle such that, upon neutralizing said ionically-soluble polymer (with either a base in the case of a base-soluble polymer or an acid in the case of an acid-soluble polymer) a significant portion (i.e. about 0.5% by weight or greater) of 35 the ionically-soluble polymer remains attached to the remainder of the polymer particle. Physically or chemically attached as used herein means attachment by Van der Waals or London forces, ionic bonding, covalent bonding, hydrogen bonding, chain entanglement or any other means. Preferably the ionically-soluble polymer is chemically grafted to the polymer particle using one or more of the multi-functional compounds described below. Chemical grafting results in permanent attachment of a portion of the ionically-soluble polymer to the polymer particle and results in improved stability toward alcohols/solvents, 40 colorants and other additives.

The following multi-functional compounds are useful to graft said ionically-soluble polymer stage to said ionically-insoluble polymer stage wherein said ionically-insoluble polymer stage is polymerized initially and said ionically-soluble polymer stage is subsequently polymerized: allyl-, methallyl-, vinyl, and crotyl-esters of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic (mono- and di-esters), fumaric (mono- and di-esters), and itaconic (mono- 45 and di-esters) acids; allyl-, methallyl, and crotyl-vinyl ether and thioether; N- and N,N-diallyl-, methallyl-, crotyl, and vinyl-amides of acrylic and methacrylic acids; N-allyl-, methallyl, and crotyl-maleimide; vinyl esters of 3-butenic and 4-pentenic acids; diallyl benzene, diallyl phthalate; triallyl cyanurate; O-allyl-, methallyl-, crotyl-, O-alkyl-, aryl-, P-vinyl-, P-allyl-, P-crotyl-, and P-methallyl-phosphonates; triallyl-, trimethallyl-, and tricrotyl-phosphates; O-vinyl-, O,O-diallyl-, dimethallyl-, and dicrotyl-phosphates; cycloal- 50 kenyl esters of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic (mono- and di-esters), fumaric (mono- and di-esters), and itaconic (mono- and di-esters) acids; vinyl ethers and vinyl thioethers of cycloalkenols and cycloalkene thiols; vinyl esters of cycloalkene carboxylic acids; 1,3-butadiene, isoprene and other conjugated dienes; para-methylstyrene; chloromethylstyrene; allyl-, methallyl-, vinyl-, and crotyl-mercaptan; bromotrichloromethane; bromoform; carbon tetrachloride; carbon tetrabromide; glycidyl methacrylate; isocyanatoethyl methacrylate; alpha, alpha-dimethyl-m-isopropenyl benzyl isocyanate; chloroethyl acrylate; bromoethyl 55 acrylate; iodoethyl acrylate; chloroethyl methacrylate; bromoethyl methacrylate and iodoethyl methacrylate. The multi-functional compounds listed above are polymerized as part of and during the polymerization of said ionically-insoluble polymer stage.

The following multi-functional compounds are useful for grafting wherein said ionically-insoluble polymer stage is polymerized, followed by the addition of multi-functional compounds which are allowed to soak into said ionically-insoluble polymer, and subsequent sequential polymerization of said multi-functional compounds and said ionically-soluble polymer stage, respectively: N,N-methylene-bis-acrylamide; ethylene glycol diacrylate; diethylene glycol diacrylate; triethylene glycol diacrylate; tetraethylene glycol diacrylate; polyethylene glycol diacrylate; polypropylene glycol diacrylate; butanediol diacrylate; hexanediol diacrylate; pentaerythritol triacrylate; trimethylolpropane triacrylate; tripropylene glycol triacrylate; neopentyl glycol diacrylate; ethylene glycol dimethacrylate; diethylene glycol dimethacrylate; triethylene glycol dimethacrylate; polyethylene glycol dimethacrylate; polypropylene glycol dimethacrylate; butanediol dimethacrylate; hexanediol dimethacrylate; trimethylolpropane trimethacrylate; trimethylolpropane trimethacrylate; divinyl benzene; allyl-, methallyl-, vinyl, and crotyl-esters of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic (mono- and di-esters), fumaric (mono- and di-esters), and itaconic (mono- and di-esters) acids; allyl-, methallyl, and crotyl-vinyl ether and thioether; N- and N, N-diallyl-, methallyl-, crotyl-, and vinyl-amides of acrylic and methacrylic acids; N-allyl-, methallyl, and crotyl-maleimide; vinyl esters of 3-butenic and 4-pentenoic acids; diallyl benzene, diallyl phthalate; triallyl cyanurate; O-allyl-, methallyl-, crotyl-, O-alkyl-, aryl-, P-vinyl-, P-allyl-, P-crotyl-, and P-methallyl-phosphonates; triallyl-, trimethallyl-, and tricrotyl-phosphates; O-vinyl-, O, O-diallyl-, dimethallyl-, and dicrotyl-phosphates; cycloalkenyl esters of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic (mono- and di-esters), fumaric (mono- and di-esters), and itaconic (mono- and di-esters) acids; vinyl ethers and vinyl thioethers of cycloalkenols and cycloalkene thiols; vinyl esters of cycloalkene carboxylic acids; 1,3-butadiene, isoprene and other conjugated dienes; glycidyl methacrylate; isocyanatoethyl methacrylate; alpha, alpha-dimethyl-m-isopropenyl benzyl isocyanate; chloroethyl acrylate; bromoethyl acrylate; iodoethyl acrylate; chloroethyl methacrylate; bromoethyl methacrylate; iodoethyl methacrylate.

The following multi-functional compounds are useful for grafting wherein said ionically-soluble polymer stage is initially polymerized along with said multi-functional compounds and subsequently said ionically-insoluble polymer stage is polymerized (inverse polymerization): allyl-, methallyl-, vinyl, and crotyl-esters of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic (mono- and di-esters), fumaric (mono- and di-esters), and itaconic (mono- and di-esters) acids; allyl-, methallyl, and crotyl-vinyl ether and thioether; N- and N,N-diallyl-, methallyl-, crotyl, and vinyl-amides of acrylic and methacrylic acids; N-allyl-, methallyl, and crotyl-maleimide; vinyl esters of 3-butenic and 4-pentenoic acids; diallyl benzene, diallyl phthalate; triallyl cyanurate; O-allyl-, methallyl-, crotyl-, O-alkyl-, aryl-, P-vinyl-, P-allyl-, P-crotyl-, and P-methallyl-phosphonates; triallyl-, trimethallyl-, and tricrotyl-phosphates; O-vinyl-, O, O-diallyl-, dimethallyl-, and dicrotyl-phosphates; cycloalkenyl esters of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic (mono- and di-esters), fumaric (mono- and di-esters), and itaconic (mono- and di-esters) acids; vinyl ethers and vinyl thioethers of cycloalkenols and cycloalkene thiols; vinyl esters of cycloalkene carboxylic acids; 1, 3-butadiene, isoprene and other conjugated dienes; para-methylstyrene; chloromethylstyrene; allyl-, methallyl-, vinyl-, and crotyl-mercaptan; bromotrichloromethane; bromoform; carbon tetrachloride and carbon tetrabromide. The following multi-functional compounds are for grafting wherein said ionically-soluble stage is initially polymerized and subsequently said ionically-insoluble stage is polymerized along with said multi-functional compounds (inverse polymerization): N,N-dimethylamino ethyl acrylate; N,N-dimethylamino ethyl methacrylate; N,N-diethylamino ethyl acrylate; N,N-diethylamino ethyl methacrylate; N-t-butylamino ethyl acrylate; N-t-butylamino ethyl methacrylate; N,N-dimethylamino propyl acrylamide; N,N-dimethylamino propyl methacrylamide; N,N-diethylamino propyl acrylamide; N,N-diethylamino propyl methacrylamide; p-aminostyrene; N,N-cyclohexylallylamine; 3-N,N-dimethylamino neopentyl acrylate; 3-N,N-dimethylamino neopentyl methacrylate; diallylamine; dimethallylamine; N-ethyl dimethallylamine; N-ethylmethallylamine; N-methyldiallylamine; 2-vinylpyridine; 4-vinylpyridine. The multi-functional compounds listed below are useful for grafting wherein said ionically-soluble stage is initially polymerized and subsequently said ionically-insoluble stage is polymerized (inverse polymerization). These multi-functional compounds can be polymerized in either said ionically-soluble or ionically-insoluble stages: glycidyl methacrylate; isocyanatoethyl methacrylate; alpha, alpha-dimethyl-m-isopropenyl benzyl isocyanate; chloroethyl acrylate; bromoethyl acrylate; iodoethyl acrylate; chloroethyl methacrylate; bromoethyl methacrylate; iodoethyl methacrylate.

The most preferred multi-functional compounds for grafting in the inverse polymerization techniques are the crotyl-esters of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic (mono- and di-esters), fumaric (mono- and di-esters), and itaconic (mono- and di-esters) acids (such as crotyl methacrylate); crotyl-vinyl ether and thioether; N-dicrotyl-amides of acrylic and methacrylic acids; N-crotyl-maleimide; O-crotyl-, P-crotyl-phosphonates; tricrotyl-phosphates; dicrotyl-phosphates; cycloalkenyl esters of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic (mono- and di-esters), fumaric (mono- and di-esters), and itaconic (mono- and di-esters) acids (such as dicyclopentenyl-ox-ethylmethacrylate, dicyclopentenyl acrylate, dicyclopentenyl methacrylate); vinyl ethers and vinyl

thioethers of cycloalkenols and cycloalkene thiols; vinyl esters of cycloalkene carboxylic acids; and crotyl-mercaptan. The multi-functional compounds listed above are polymerized as part of and during the polymerization of said ionically-soluble polymer stage.

The polymer particles of this invention may be useful in a wide variety of applications as described earlier. The polymer particles may be useful either in dried form or as an emulsion of the polymer particles in an aqueous medium. The polymer particles are preferably used as an aqueous emulsion composition or added to water-containing compositions wherein in either case the ionically-soluble polymer is neutralized and substantially dissolved with either a base or an acid; except that a portion of said ionically-soluble polymer remains attached or associated with the insoluble polymer stage(s). Based on equivalents of carboxylic acid in the base-soluble polymer, preferably about 0.8 to about 1.5 equivalents of base are introduced to said compositions to neutralize the base-soluble polymer. The neutralized base-soluble polymer is dissolved in the aqueous medium, but a significant portion remains attached to the remainder of the polymer particle.

The base used to neutralize said base-soluble polymer can be any, but is preferably selected from the group consisting of ammonium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, triethylamine, triethanolamine, monoethanolamine, 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol and dimethylaminoethanol.

The polymer particles are useful in a method of thickening water containing compositions (preferably containing about 20% by weight water or greater) by incorporating the polymer particles therein and neutralizing. The base-soluble polymer is neutralized with base by adjusting the pH of the compositions to about 5.0 or greater. The acid-soluble polymer is neutralized with acid by adjusting the pH of the composition to about 9.0 or less. The amount of the polymer particles used as a thickener depends upon the particular application, but is generally used in an amount of from about 0.1% to about 20% by weight of the total composition. The compositions to be thickened using the polymer particles of this invention can contain many additional ingredients such as pigments, fillers, extenders, surfactants, stabilizers, biocides and the like.

The multistage polymer particles of the present invention may be used in a variety of applications, such as in inks, adhesives, coatings, paints, pigment dispersants, textile thickeners, cosmetic formulations, oil well drilling fluids, liquid detergents and water treatment. Such compositions may contain one or more additional ingredients selected from the group consisting of liquid carriers, e.g. water, pigments, fillers, extenders, surfactants, stabilizers, and biocides.

The following examples are presented to demonstrate this invention. The examples are extended in an illustrative, but not limitative, sense. All parts and percentages are by weight unless otherwise indicated.

The following abbreviations are used in the Examples: BA = butyl acrylate

MMA = methyl methacrylate

ALMA = allyl methacrylate

MAA = methacrylic acid

EA = ethyl acrylate

MA-20 = methacrylate ester of a 20 mole ethoxylate of cetyl-stearyl alcohol

A-103 = disodium ethoxylated nonyl phenol half ester of sulfosuccinic acid

BMP = butyl mercaptopropionate

D.I. water = deionized water

CrMA = crotyl methacrylate

CPS = centipoise

DPH = diallyl phthalate

Q-1 = dicyclopentenylloxyethyl methacrylate

BMA = butyl methacrylate

ST = styrene

Q-2 = methacrylate ester of a 23 mole ethoxylate of lauryl alcohol

LMA = lauryl methacrylate

TMI-970 = alpha, alpha-dimethyl-m-isopropenyl benzyl isocyanate adduct with 50 mole ethoxylate of nonyl phenol

Cr-20 = crotyl ester of a 20 mole ethoxylate of cetyl-stearyl alcohol

Al-20 = allyl ester of a 20 mole ethoxylate of cetyl-stearyl alcohol

TMI-20 = alpha, alpha-dimethyl-m-isopropenyl benzyl isocyanate adduct with a 20 mole ethoxylate of cetyl-stearyl alcohol.

Example 1

An emulsion of polymer particles within the scope of this invention was prepared as follows:

A stirred reactor containing 1,532 g. of deionized (D.I.) water, and 9 g. of 28 wt% sodium lauryl sulfate solution (in water) was heated to 80 °C. under nitrogen. Next, 42 g. of monomer emulsion (M.E.) #1, shown below, was added to the reactor followed by .95 g. of ammonium persulfate dissolved in 35 g. of D.I. water, and a 24 g. D.I. water rinse. After 10 minutes, the remainder of M.E. #1 and cofeed #1 (shown below) was added to the reactor over a 30-minute period while maintaining the reactor temperature at 80 °C. A 47 g. D.I. water rinse was used to flush the feed lines and the water added to the reactor. After a 10 minute hold (at 80 °C.), a solution of .45 g. of ammonium persulfate, 1.9 g. of a 33 wt% solution of A-103 (in water), and 70g. of D.I. water was added to the reactor over a 10-minute period. Next M.E. #2 (shown below) and cofeed #2 (shown below) was added to the reactor over a 210-minute time period. The temperature was maintained at 80 °C. throughout the additions. At the end of the feeds the monomer emulsion feed lines were flushed with 48 g. of D.I. water and the water added to the reactor. After a 30-minute hold (at 80 °C.) the dispersion was cooled.

The final product had a solids content of 32.5%, Brookfield viscosity of 7 centipoises (cps) (0.7 PaS), and a pH of 3.1. When 6.2 g. of this material was mixed with .7 g. of 50 wt% NaOH and 193.1 g of D.I. water the resulting mixture had a viscosity of 102 cps (10.2 PaS) (Brookfield viscometer, 30 rpm). When 12.3 g. of this material was mixed with 1.4 g of 50 wt% NaOH and 186.3 g. of D.I. water the resulting mixture had a Brookfield viscosity of 4,620 cps (462 PaS) (30 rpm).

	(BASE-INSOLUBLE) STAGE	(BASE-SOLUBLE) STAGE
	M.E. #1	M.E. #2
D.I. water	91.0g	495.0g
Sodium lauryl sulfate (28 wt%)	10.8g	--
A-103 (33 wt% in water)	--	33.3g
BA	142.5g	--
MMA	95.0g	--
ALMA	7.5g	--
MAA	5.0g	428.0g
EA	--	500.0g
MA-20 (70 wt% solution in MAA)	--	71.5g
BMP	--	.6g
	COFEED #1	COFEED #2
D.I. water	35.0	150.0g
Ammonium Persulfate	.2g	1.1g

EXAMPLE 2A-B

Ex. 2A

An emulsion of polymer particles within the scope of this invention was prepared as follows:

A stirred reactor containing 650 g. of D.I. water, and 3.8 g. of 28 wt% sodium lauryl sulfate solution (in water) was heated to 83 °C. under nitrogen. Next, 18 g. of monomer emulsion (M.E.) #1, shown below, was added to the reactor followed by 0.4 g. of ammonium persulfate dissolved in 15 g. of D.I. water, and a 10 g. D.I. water rinse. After 5 minutes, the remainder of M.E. #1 and cofeed #1 (shown below) was added to the reactor over a 40-minute period while maintaining the reactor temperature at 83 °C. A 20 g. D.I. water rinse was used to flush the feed lines and the water added to the reactor. After a 10-minute hold (at 83 °C.), the reactor was cooled to 81 °C. and a solution of 0.2 g. of ammonium persulfate, 0.8 g. of a 33 wt% solution

of A-103 (in water), and 30 g. of D.I. water was added to the reactor over a 5 minute period. Next M.E. #2 (shown below) and cofeed #2 (shown below) were added to the reactor over a 200 minute time period. The temperature was maintained at 81 °C. throughout the additions. At the end of the feeds, the monomer emulsion feed lines were flushed with a 20 g. of D.I. water and the water added to the reactor. After a 30-minute hold (at 81 °C.) the dispersion was cooled.

The final product had a solids content of 32.4%, Brookfield viscosity of 11 cps (1.1 PaS), and a pH of 3.0. When 12.4 g. of this material was mixed with 1.4 g. of 50 wt% NaOH and 186.3 g. of D.I. water the resulting mixture had a viscosity of 72cps (7.2 PaS) (Brookfield viscometer, 30 rpm).

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	M.E. #1	M.E. #2
D.I. Water	38.5 g.	195.0 g.
Sodium lauryl sulfate (28 wt%)	4.5 g.	--
A-103 (33 wt% in water)	--	14.1 g.
BA	70.5 g.	--
MMA	30.2 g.	--
MAA	2.1 g.	181.9 g.
ALMA	3.2 g.	--
EA	--	211.8 g.
MA-20 (70 wt% solution in MAA)	--	22.7 g.
Q-2 (70 wt% solution in MAA)	--	7.6 g.
BMP	--	.3 g.
	COFEED #1	COFEED #2
D.I. Water	20.0 g.	78.0 g.
Ammonium Persulfate	.1 g.	.5 g.

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Ex. 2B

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An emulsion of polymer particles within the scope of this invention was prepared as in Ex. 2A above, except that in monomer Emulsion #1 the amount of BA, MMA and ALMA was changed to 62.3 grams, 41.6 grams and 0.0 grams, respectively. The final product had a solids content of 32.0%, Brookfield viscosity of 9 cps (0.9 PaS) and a pH of 3.0. When 3.1 of this material was mixed with 0.7 of 50 wt.% NaOH and 96.3g. of D.I. water, the resulting mixture had a Brookfield (30rpm) viscosity of 380 cps (38 PaS).

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EXAMPLE 3 A-B(Comparative)

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Emulsions of polymer particles falling outside the scope of this invention were prepared using conventional emulsion polymerization techniques utilizing the following recipe:

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Example 3A	
	Monomer Emulsion
D.I. water	650.0 g.
Sodium lauryl sulfate (28% soln)	35.0 g.
EA	625.0 g.
MA-20 (70 wt% solution in MAA)	89.3 g.
MAA	535.7 g.
BMP	.8 g.
	COFEED
D.I. Water	150.0 g.
Ammonium Persulfate	1.0 g.

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Example 3B	
	Monomer Emulsion
D.I. water	600.0g.
A-103 (33 wt% in water)	35.2 g.
MA-20 (70 wt% solution in MAA)	56.8 g.
Q-2 (70 wt% solution in MAA)	18.9 g.
MAA	454.3 g.
BMP	.7 g.
EA	530.0 g.
	COFEED
D.I. water	88.0 g.
Ammonium Persulfate	.9 g.

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The final product from Ex. 3A had a solids content of 32.0%, Brookfield (30 rpm) viscosity of 11 cps (1.1 PaS), and a pH of 2.8. The final product from Ex. 3B had a solids content of 33.1%, Brookfield viscosity of 12 cps (1.2 PaS) (30 rpm) and a pH of 3.7.

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An emulsion of polymer particles falling outside the scope of this invention was prepared using conventional emulsion polymerization techniques utilizing the following recipe:

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EXAMPLE 4 (Comparative)

	MONOMER EMULSION
D.I. Water	192.3 g.
Sodium lauryl sulfate (28 wt%)	22.7 g.
BA	302.1 g.
MMA	201.4 g.
MAA	10.6 g.
ALMA	15.9 g.
	COFEED
D.I. Water	98.0 g.
Ammonium Persulfate	.4 g.

The final product had a solids content of 39.1%, Brookfield viscosity of 24 cps (2.4 PaS), and a pH of 2.5.

EXAMPLE 5 (Comparative)

A composition falling outside the scope of this invention was prepared by mixing 1000 grams of the sample prepared in Ex. 3B and 211 grams of the sample prepared in Ex. 4. The resulting mixture had a solids content of 34.4%, Brookfield viscosity of 13 centipoises (1.3 PaS) and a pH of 3.65. When 5.8 grams of this product was mixed with 1.4 grams of 50 wt.% NaOH and 192.8 grams of D.I. water, the resulting mixture had a viscosity of 58 centipoise (5.8 PaS) (Brookfield viscometer, 30 rpm).

EXAMPLES 6-10

Various compositions within the scope of this invention were prepared following the procedures of Ex. 1. All of the compositions comprised polymer particles having a base-soluble 2nd stage polymer comprising 50% ethyl acrylate, 45% methacrylic acid, 5% MA-20, and 0.063% butyl mercaptopropionate based on weight of 2nd stage monomers. The compositions of the 1st stage polymer are presented in Table 1 below. The weight ratio of 2nd stage polymer to 1st stage polymer was 80:20.

Table 1

Example	Composition of 1st Stage Polymer(%)			
	BA	MMA	ALMA	MAA
6	58	39	3	0
7	52	35	3	10
8	46	31	3	20
9	28	19	3	50
10	22	15	3	60

EXAMPLES 11-14

Various compositions within the scope of this invention were prepared as in Examples 6-10, except that

the 1st stage polymer of the polymer particles had the compositions given in Table II.

Table II

Example	Composition of 1st Stage Polymer (%)			
	BA	MMA	ALMA	MAA
11	59	39	0	2
12	53	35	10	2
13	47	31	20	2
14	41	27	30	2

EXAMPLES 15-23

Various compositions within the scope of this invention were prepared as in Examples 6-10, except that the 1st stage polymer of the polymer particles had the compositions given in Table III.

Table III

Example	Composition of 1st Stage Polymer(%)					
	BA	MMA	CRMA	Q-1	DPH	MAA
15	58	39	1	-	-	2
16	57	38	3	-	-	2
17	56	37	5	-	-	2
18	53	35	10	-	-	2
19	47	31	20	-	-	2
20	57	38	-	3	-	2
21	53	35	-	10	-	2
22	57	38	-	-	3	2
23	53	35	-	-	10	2

EXAMPLES 24-30

Various compositions within the scope of this invention were prepared following the procedures of Ex. 1. The 2nd stage polymer of the polymer particle comprised 50% ethyl acrylate, 45% methacrylic acid, 5% MA-20 and 0.063% BMP based on weight of 2nd stage monomer. The compositions of the 1st stage polymer are presented in Table IV below. The weight ratio of 2nd stage polymer to 1st stage polymer was 80:20.

Table IV

Example	Composition of 1st Stage Polymer (%)
24	95 ethyl hexyl acrylate/3 allyl methacrylate/2 methacrylic acid
25	95 styrene/3 allyl methacrylate/2 methacrylic acid
26	95 ethyl acrylate/3 allyl methacrylate/2 methacrylic acid
27	95 butyl methacrylate/3 allyl methacrylate/2 methacrylic acid
28	48 hydroxyethyl methacrylate/47 butyl acrylate/3 allyl methacrylate/2 methacrylic acid
29	57.2 butyl acrylate/38.1 methyl methacrylate/3 allyl methacrylate/1.7 acrylic acid
30	56.4 butyl acrylate/37.6 methyl methacrylate/3 allyl methacrylate/3.0 itaconic acid

EXAMPLES 31-42

Various compositions within the scope of this invention were prepared following the procedures of Ex. 1, except that the 1st stage polymer comprised 57% butyl acrylate, 38% methyl methacrylate, 3% allyl methacrylate and 2% methacrylic acid; and the 2nd stage polymer had compositions as shown in Table V below. The weight ratio of 2nd stage polymer to 1st stage polymer was 80:20. The 2nd stage polymer also contained 0.063% butyl mercaptopropionate, except for Ex. 34 wherein the 2nd stage polymer contained 0.047% methyl mercaptopropionate.

Table V

Example	Composition of 2nd Stage Polymer (%)						
	EA	MAA	MMA	BA	BMA	ST	MA-20
31	85	10	-	-	-	-	5
32	75	20	-	-	-	-	5
33	65	30	-	-	-	-	5
34	50	45	-	-	-	-	5
35	35	60	-	-	-	-	5
36	52	45	-	-	-	-	3
37	45	45	-	-	-	-	10
38	15	45	-	-	-	-	40
39	25	45	25	-	-	-	5
40	25	45	-	25	-	-	5
41	25	45	-	-	25	-	5
42	25	45	-	-	-	25	5

EXAMPLES 43-48

Various compositions within the scope of this invention were prepared following the procedures in Ex. 1, except that the 1st stage polymer comprised 57% butyl acrylate, 38% methyl methacrylate, 3% allyl methacrylate and 2% methacrylic acid; and the 2nd stage polymer had compositions as shown in Table VI below. The 2nd stage polymer also contained 0.063% butyl mercaptopropionate. The weight ratio of 2nd stage polymer to 1st stage polymer was 80:20.

Table VI

Example	Composition of 2nd Stage Polymer (%)							
	EA	MAA	LMA	Q-2	TMI-970	Cr-20	AI-20	TMI-20
44	49.7	45	-	5.3	-	-	-	-
44	44.0	45	-	-	11	-	-	-
45	53.9	45	1.1	-	-	-	-	-
46	50	45	-	-	-	5	-	-
47	50.1	45	-	-	-	-	4.9	-
48	49.4	45	-	-	-	-	-	5.6

EXAMPLES 48-54

Compositions within the scope this invention are prepared following the procedures of Ex. 1, except that the weight ratio of 1st stage polymer to 2nd stage polymer was changed as shown in Table VII below.

Table VII

Example	(weight ratio)	
	1st Stage Polymer	2nd Stage Polymer
49	1	99
50	5	95
51	10	90
52	30	70
53	70	30
54	90	10

EXAMPLE 55

An emulsion of polymer particles within the scope of this invention was prepared as follows:

A stirred reactor containing 1,533 g. of D.I. water, and 28 g. of 28 wt% sodium lauryl sulfate solution (in water) was heated to 80° C. under nitrogen. Next, 42 g. of monomer emulsion (M.E.) #1 shown below, was added to the reactor followed by .95 g. of ammonium persulfate dissolved in 35 g. of D.I. water, and a 25 g. D.I. water rinse. After 10 minutes, the remainder of M.E. #1 and cofeed #1 (shown below) was added to the reactor over a 210-minute period while maintaining the reactor temperature at 80° C. A 48 g. D.I. water rinse was used to flush the feed lines and the water added to the reactor. After a 10-minute hold (at 80° C.), a solution of .45 g. of ammonium persulfate, 1.9 g. of a 33 wt% solution of A-103 (in water), and 70 g. of D.I. water was added to the reactor over a 10-minute period. Next M.E. #2 (shown below) and cofeed #2 (shown below) was added to the reactor over a 30-minute time period. The temperature was maintained at 80° C. throughout the additions. At the end of the feeds the monomer emulsion feed lines were flushed with 47 g. of D.I. water and the water added to the reactor. After a 30-minute hold (at 80° C.) the dispersion was cooled.

The final product had a solids content of 33.8%, viscosity of 10 cps (1 PaS), and a pH of 2.5. When 5.9 g. of this material was mixed with .7 g of 50 wt% NaOH and 193.4 g. of D.I. water the resulting mixture had a viscosity of 824 cps (82.4 PaS) (Brookfield viscometer, 30 rpm). When 11.8 g. of this material was mixed

with 1.4 g. of 50 wt% NaOH and 186.8 g. of D.I. water the resulting mixture had a Brookfield viscosity of 10,840 cps (1084 PaS) (30 rpm).

	(BASE-SOLUBLE) STAGE	(BASE-INSOLUBLE) STAGE
	M.E. #1	M.E. #2
D.I. water	495.0g.	90.0g.
Sodium lauryl sulfate (28 wt%)	28.0g.	10.8g.
EA	497.5g.	--
MA-20 (70 wt% solution in MAA)	71.4g.	--
MAA	428.6g.	--
CrMA	2.5g.	--
BMP	.6g.	--
BA	--	150.0g.
MMA	--	100.0g.
	COFEED #1	COFEED #2
D.I. water	150.0g.	48.0g.
Ammonium Persulfate	1.1g.	.2g.

EXAMPLE 56

An emulsion of polymer particles within the scope of this invention was prepared as follows:

A 1st stage polymer was prepared following the procedures of Example 1, but using the monomer emulsion [M.E.] #1 described below. Next, the reactor was cooled to 60° C. and 30 g. of 1,3 butylene dimethacrylate added. After stirring for about 10 minutes, solutions of 0.53 g. t-butyl hydroperoxide in 7 g. D.I. water, 0.27 g. sodium sulfoxylate formaldehyde in 8 g. D.I. water, and 2 g. of 0.15 wt% ferrous sulfate heptahydrate were added to the reactor. The temperature rose from 60° to 61° C. After 30 minutes the reactor was heated to 80° C., and a solution of 0.45 g. of ammonium persulfate, 1.9 g. of a 33 wt% solution of A-103 [in water], and 70g. of D.I. water was added to the reactor over a 10-minute period. Next M.E. #2 [shown below] and cofeed #2 [shown below] was added to the reactor over a 210-minute time period. The temperature was maintained at 80° C. throughout the additions. At the end of the feeds the monomer emulsion feed lines were flushed with 48 g. of D.I. water and the water added to the reactor. After a 30-minute hold at 80° C. the dispersion was cooled.

The final product had a solids content of 32.7% and a Brookfield viscosity of 7 cps (0.7 PaS). When 6.1 g. of this material was mixed with .7 g. of 50 wt% NaOH and 193.2 g. of D.I. water the resulting mixture had a viscosity of 680 cps (68 PaS) (Brookfield viscometer, 30 rpm). When 12.2 g. of this material was mixed with 1.3 g. of 50 wt% NaOH and 186.5 g. of D.I. water the resulting mixture had a Brookfield viscosity of 11,360 cps (1136 PaS)(30rpm).

	(BASE-INSOLUBLE) STAGE	(BASE-SOLUBLE) STAGE
	M.E. #1	M.E.#2
D.I. water	91.0 g.	495.0 g.
Sodium lauryl sulfate (28 wt%)	10.8 g.	--
A-103 (33 wt% in water)	--	33.3 g.
BA	147.5 g.	--
MMA	97.5 g.	--
MAA	5.0 g.	428.6 g.
EA	--	500.0 g.
MA-20 (70 wt% solution in MAA)	--	71.4 g.
	Cofeed #1	Cofeed #2
D.I. water	48.0 g.	150.0 g.
Ammonium Persulfate	.2 g.	1.1 g.

EXAMPLES 57-60 (Comparative)

Various emulsions of single-stage polymer particles falling outside the scope of this invention were prepared following the procedures of Example 3, but having the following compositions:

Ex.	COMPOSITION (%)							
	EA	MAA	MMA	MA-20	MMP	BMP	CrMA	TMI-970
57	25	45	25	5	--	0.063	--	--
58	44	45	--	--	--	0.063	--	11.0
59	49.75	45	--	5	--	0.063	0.25	--
60	50	45	--	5	0.047	--	--	--

EXAMPLE 61

Emulsions of polymer particles within the scope of this invention were each formulated into a paint composition as a thickener using the following recipe:

GRIND:	
Ingredient	Amount (parts by weight)
Propylene glycol	70.00
Hydrophillic acrylic dispersant	12.00
Defoamer	1.0
Water	45.0
Titanium dioxide	210.0
Clay	88.0
Let Down:	
Water	50.0
Acrylic binder	378.0
Ester-alcohol coalescent	11.4
Defoamer	3.0
Biocide	2.0
Ammonium hydroxide	1.8
Thickener/water	201.0

Each paint composition was thickened using a sufficient amount of the polymer particles (on a dry weight basis) to give an initial viscosity of about 85 Kneb Units (KU) at a pH of about 9.5 adjusted with ammonium hydroxide. After sitting for a period of 3-5 days, the paint composition was sheared by mixing for 5 minutes and the equilibrium viscosity measured. Comparative compositions were prepared using the same formulation above but incorporating as thickeners the emulsions prepared in comparative examples 3B and 5. The compositions were evaluated for viscosity stability after heat-aging, viscosity stability upon colorant addition and early blister resistance.

The viscosity stability after heat-aging was measured by subjecting approximately 250 grams of the paint composition to storage in a 1/2 pint paint can at 60 °C for 10 days. The paint samples were then cooled to room temperature, sheared by mixing for 5 minutes, and viscosity measured. The difference between the viscosity of the heat-aged samples and the equilibrium viscosity is presented in Table VIII below.

Viscosity stability upon colorant addition was evaluated by measuring the viscosity decline which occurred after addition of the equivalent of 8 ounces of phthalo blue colorant to a gallon of each paint composition. This data is presented in Table VIII below.

Early blister resistance was evaluated following ASTM method D659-86 and D-714 by applying two coats of each paint composition to a chalky acrylic substrate with a 6-hour drying time between coats at 77 °F (25 °C) and 50% relative humidity. After drying overnight, the substrates were subjected to a mist of deionized water and the formation of blister defects were rated over time. The results are presented in Table VIII below (0 = worst, 10 = best, F = few, M = medium, MD = medium dense, D = dense).

Table VIII

Sample	Thickener/Amount	Viscosity Stability(KU)			Early Blister Resistance		
		(lbs/gal.)	Heat-Aging	Colorant addition	0.5 hrs.	1.0 hrs.	2.0 hrs.
		(Kg/l)					
A	Ex. 2A	3.53 (0.42)	-7	-7	7D	6M	3M
B	Ex. 2B	2.82 (0.34)	-9	-9	8F	6M	4M
C*	Ex. 3B	2.68 (0.32)	-16	-12	7D	6D	3D
D*	Ex. 5	3.08 (0.37)	-14	-13	7MD	6D	6D

*comparative

The above data demonstrates that samples A and B within the scope of this invention have improved viscosity stability after heat-aging and upon colorant addition when compared to a single-stage thickener (sample C) and a blend of a single-stage thickener and an acrylic emulsion polymer (sample D). The comparative samples C and D showed nearly twice the viscosity loss of samples A and B. The data also shows that samples A and B exhibit equivalent early blister resistance relative to the comparative samples, despite the higher levels of thickener used in Samples A and B. It is generally known in the art that increasing the level of water-sensitive materials such as thickeners can be disadvantageous for early blister resistance.

EXAMPLE 62

Emulsions of polymer particles within the scope of this invention were formulated into paint compositions and evaluated following the procedures of Example 61. Corresponding comparative formulations were also prepared using emulsions of single-stage polymer particles falling outside the scope of this invention. The results are presented in Table IX.

Table IX

Sample	Thickener/Amount	Viscosity Stability(KU)		Early Blister Resistance		
	(lbs/gal.)	Heat-Aging	Colorant Addition	0.5 hrs.	1.0 hrs.	2.0 hrs.
	(Kg/l)					
E	Ex. 1/3.47 (0.42)	-2	-8	7MD	6MD	4MD
F*	Ex. 3A/2.00 (0.24)	-16	-15	7MD	6M	4MD
G	Ex. 39/3.79(0.45)	-8	-14	6D	5D	3D
H*	Ex. 57/2.14(0.26)	-11	-14	7D	6D	5D
I	Ex. 34/2.92(0.35)	+1	-9	7MD	6D	5D
J*	Ex. 60/2.10(0.25)	-14	-11	7MD	6D	5D
K	Ex. 44/2.98(0.36)	+5	-11	6MD	5D	3D
L*	Ex. 58/2.10(0.25)	-13	-14	7MD	6D	5D
M	Ex. 55/2.52(0.30)	+2	-8	8MD	7MD	6MD
N*	Ex. 59/1.90(0.23)	-12	-12	8MD	8MD	7D

*comparative

EXAMPLE 63

An emulsion of polymer particles falling within the scope of this invention was prepared as follows:

A stirred reactor containing 600 g. of D.I. water, and 5.2 g. of 42 wt% amphoteric surfactant (Abex-1404, in water) was heated to 60° C. under nitrogen. Then 3.44 g. of 1 wt% versene solution and 3.44 g. of a 0.15 wt% ferrous sulfate heptahydrate solution was added to the reactor. A charge of 16.8 g. of monomer emulsion (M.E.) #1, shown below, was added to the reactor followed by 0.4 g. of ammonium persulfate dissolved in 40 g. of D.I. water, and a 10 g. D.I. water rinse. Alter 25 minutes, the remainder of M.E. #1, the cofeed initiator #1, and the cofeed reductant #1 (shown below) were added to the reactor over a 210 minute period while maintaining the reactor temperature at 60° C. A 19 g. D.I. water rinse was used to flush the feed lines and the water added to the reactor. After a 30 minute hold (at 60° C.), a solution of 0.12 g. of sodium sulfoxylate formaldehyde in 8 g. of D.I. water was added to the reactor and the temperature increased to 80° C. M.E. #2 (shown below) and cofeed #2 (shown below) were then added to the reactor over a 30 minute time period. The temperature was maintained at 80° C. throughout the additions. At the end of the feeds the monomer emulsion feed lines were flushed with 19 g. of D.I. water and the water added to the reactor. After a 30 minute hold (at 80° C.) the dispersion was cooled to room temperature.

The final product had a solids content of 28.4% and a Brookfield viscosity of 516 cps (51.6 PaS). When 35.2 g. of this material was mixed with 2.5 g. of concentrated hydrochloric acid and 162.3 g. of D.I. water, the resulting mixture had a Brookfield viscosity of 728 cps (72.8 PaS) (30 rpm).

	M.E. #1	M.E. #2
D.I. water	198.0 g.	36.0 g.
Amphoteric surfactant (Abex-1404, 42 wt% in water)*	10.0 g.	1.16 g.
EA	119.6 g.	--
TMI-	2020.0 g.	--
Dimethyl aminoethylmethacrylate	160.0 g.	--
CrMA	0.4 g.	--
BA	--	60.0 g.
MMA	100.0 g.	40.0 g.
	Cofeed initiator #1	Cofeed #2
D.I. water	80.0 g.	20.0 g.
Ammonium Persulfate	0.4 g.	.2 g.
	Cofeed reductant #1	
D.I. water	40.0 g.	
Sodium sulfoxylate formaldehyde	0.2 g.	

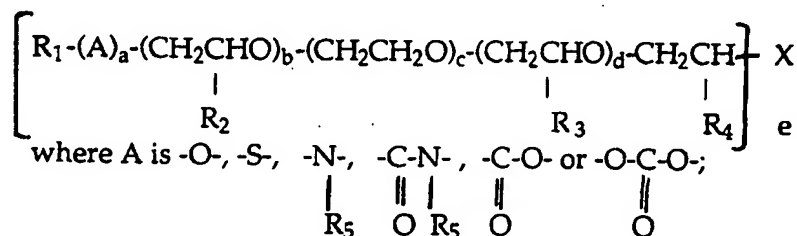
*Abex is a trademark of Alcolac, Inc.

Claims

1. Polymer particle comprising two or more polymer stages wherein

1) at least one of said polymer stages is an ionically-soluble polymer, said ionically-soluble polymer being polymerized from a monomer mixture comprising:

a) 0.1 to 55 parts by weight based on a), b), c) and d) hydrophobic monomer having the formula;



R₁ and R₅ independently are (C₁-C₃₀) alkyl, a(mono-, di-, or tri-) (C₁-C₃₀) alkyl-substituted phenyl ring, or a sorbitan fatty ester; R₂, R₃ and R₄ independently are -H or (C₁-C₁₀) alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl; a is 0 or 1; b is 0 or 1 to 50; c is 0 or 1 to 150; d is 0 or 1 to 50; e is equal to or greater than 1 and X is a group containing at least one ethylenic double bond;

b) 10 to 60 parts by weight based on a), b), c) and d) (C₃-C₃₀), ethylenically-unsaturated, ionizable monomer, and

c) 0.1 to 90% parts by weight based on a), b), c) and d) nonionic (C₂-C₃₀) ethylenically-unsaturated monomer, and

d) 0 to 10 parts by weight based on a), b), c) and d) multifunctional compounds;

2) said ionically-soluble polymer is attached to said polymer particle such that, upon neutralizing said ionically-soluble polymer with base or acid, at least a portion of said ionically-soluble polymer remains attached to the remainder of said polymer particle; and

3) said polymer particle comprises from 1% to 99% by weight of said ionically-soluble polymer when in un-neutralized form or at least 0.5% by weight of said ionically soluble polymer when in neutralized form.

2. Polymer particle as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said ionically-soluble polymer stage is substantially

soluble in aqueous medium which has a pH of 5 or greater.

3. Polymer particle as claimed in Claim 2, wherein at least one of said polymer stages is substantially insoluble in aqueous medium which has a pH of 5 or greater, and the weight ratio of said insoluble polymer to said soluble polymer is 1:99 to 99:1.

5 4. Polymer particle as claimed in anyone of Claims 2-4, wherein said ionizable monomer is a carboxylic acid monomer which preferably has the chemical formula:



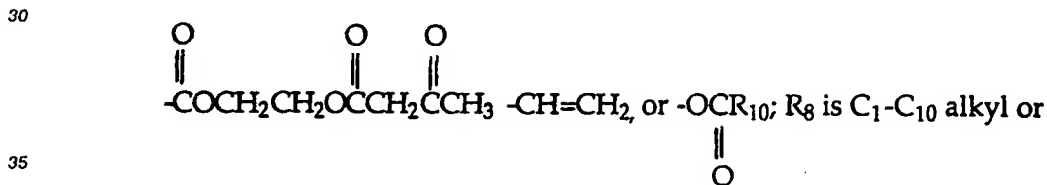
where R₆ is -H, -CH₃, or -COOY; R₇ is -H, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, or -CH₂COOY; Y is -H or (C₁-C₁₀)alkyl.

15 5. Polymer particle as claimed in anyone of the preceding Claims, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of acrylates, methacrylates, crotonates, maleates, fumarates, itaconates, ethylenically unsaturated urethanes, allyl ethers, methallyl ethers and vinyl ethers.

6. Polymer particles as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein said nonionic ethylenically unsaturated monomer has the chemical formula:



where Z_1 is -H, -CH₃ or Cl; Z_2 is -CN, -Cl, -COOR₈, -C₆H₄R₉, -CHO,



C₂-C₈ hydroxyalkyl, R₉ is -H, Cl, -Br or C₁-C₁₀ alkyl; and R₁₀ is C₁-C₁₀ alkyl.

7. A composition comprising polymer particles as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims and, optionally, one or more, additional ingredients e.g. liquid carriers, pigments, fillers, extenders, surfactants, stabilizers and biocides.

8. Use of polymer particles as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6, or of a composition as claimed in Claim 7, in or as an ink, adhesive, coating, paint, pigment dispersant, textile, thickener, cosmetic formulation, oil well drilling fluid or liquid detergent or in water treatment.